

ARC-OVER

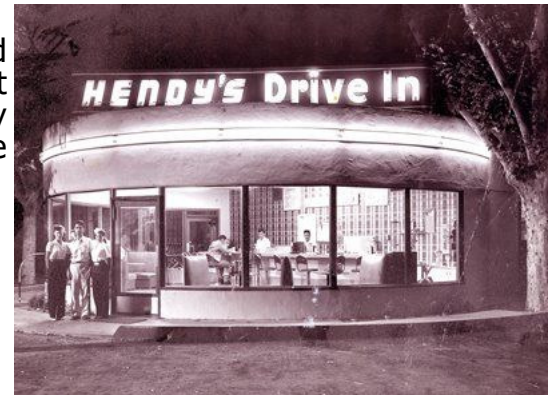
June, 2017 EDITION

Root Beer Floats

For some time now we have had a ritual of Root Beer Floats at the meeting prior to Field Day... One wonders how and when this type of event begins... We'll the Root Beer Float event was originally held on the first meeting after Field Day not the Last meeting prior to FD... One of our members Bill Henderson (K6LRE) owned three Drive-Ins, one in Ceres and two in Turlock... Another member Dean Larson, (W6HAB) worked at Dairy Maid Creamery in Hughson where they cranked out Ice Cream... Bill would bring the Root Beer, Dean the Ice Cream, the meeting would be held, field day results reviewed and the Field Day plaque would be awarded to the individual or team with the most field day contact points...

A bit more about Hendy (Bill) and his wife Billie who opened their original hamburger stand in Ceres around the time that Ceres had grown just enough to warrant a stop light on Hwy 99. The Drive-In was at the corner of 4th and 99 next to the spotlight on the south east corner of the intersection...

In the early 50's Hendy opened a second Drive-In in Turlock on Hwy 99... The building is now occupied by Turlock Auto Source Used Car Dealership...



Hendy was one of the first to buy a micro-wave oven. The unit sported a Hugh klystron tube with a high voltage power supply that would kill you deader than a door nail. Thing cost in excess of \$1000... He had in mind using it to toast buns, as we now know it won't happen. Persistent with his efforts after several minutes of radiation the bun turned a dark yellow having the consistency of a form of butyl rubber... He didn't have a knife sharp enough to even split the bun...

Hendy's third Drive-In was acquired with the purchase of Warn's Drive-In at the corner of Geer Road and Hwy 99... This Drive-In was one of the first in area to utilize car hops on Roller Skates... So it soon became the most popular of the three Drive-Ins... This site is currently the location of Cindy's Restaurant.



Root Beer Floats (continued)

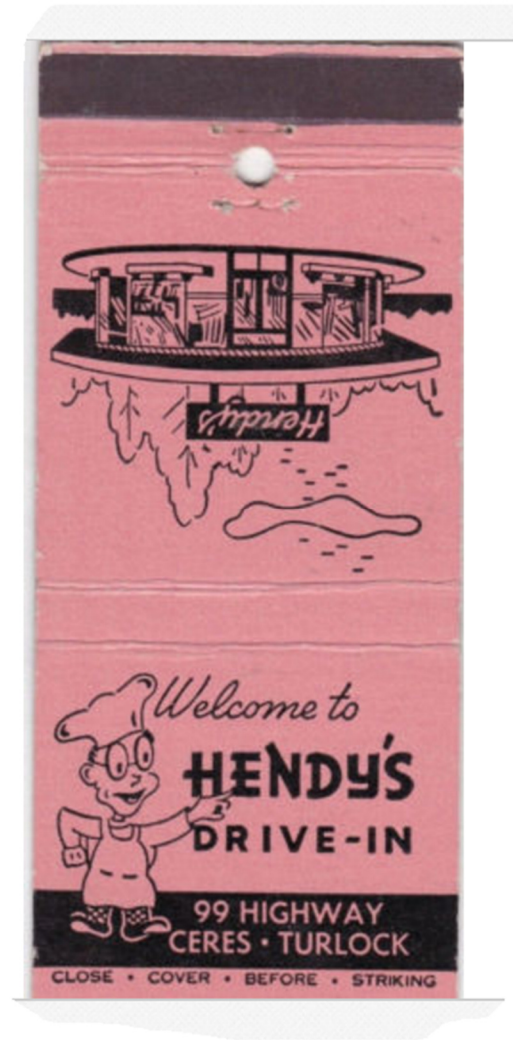
For those of us from the 50's graffiti generation, The Hendy's Drive-Ins hold many fond memories of burgers, fries and a milkshake... According to my wife Ivy, it was the absolute best hamburger on a sesame seed bun with great sauce, tomatoes and lettuce. She can still taste them in her fond memory...

I ran across a bit of memorabilia from Hendy's Drive-In, a Match Book Cover depicting the Drive-In at Ceres... In the post war era matchbook covers were a prominent means of advertising. Lucky Strike as well as other tobacco companies provided the GI's with free cigarettes during WWII... Consequently after the war there was a ready-made market of addicted smokers... The match book cover then became a viable advertising medium... Recalling as a kid in the mid 40's living in Livingston, I had a large matchbook collection consisting of several shoe boxes of covers... For some reason one could find a plethora of discarded covers in back streets and alleyways of the downtown area... This Hendy's cover sold for \$7.99 on e-bay... Makes one wonder what my collection would have been worth in today's market...

On last thought on our friend Hendy... In the late 40's early 50's Turlock City pretty well stopped to the north along Canal Blvd... I recall playing softball in an open field where the War Memorial now stands... A lot of the area North of Canal consisted of Baby Breath Fields... Baby Breath was in high demand by Florist for use in bouquets and floral displays... Hendy's dad was a Turlock Baby Breath grower and had several acres on the north side of Turlock... It is hard to find any Turlock Hi-School alumni who did not work harvesting Baby Breath for Hendy's dad... As demand for housing increased as the city expanded to the north, the fields were sold off to developers and new properties were acquired to the west of town along Monte Vista Avenue... Then along came the Freeway expansion which cut through the middle of the Baby Breath fields now owned by Hendy... By this time Hendy and wife Billie were beginning to enjoy retirement living in a nice new home on the North side of Monte Vista east of Golden State... Developers soon cast a jaundice eye on the property around the intersection of Monte Vista and the new Hwy 99... After a period of realtor; lawyer type negotiations, a price was agreed upon... Hendy told Dean (W6HAB) and myself that "Those Fellows" gave me a pile of money that I can't even see over the top of... I am going to be hard pressed to be able to spend the interest much less the principle of the amount received... Well after all of the years of flipping greasy hamburgers, Dean and I could not think of anyone who deserved this newly acquired burst of prosperity more than Bill and Billie... They also ended up with a couple of beautiful new mountain cabins... One just north of Mariposa and one south on Kirby Peak between Mariposa and Oakhurst... Dean W6HAB had a 1296 repeater at the Kirby Peak Site when 1.2 repeaters were still for the most part, unheard of... He eventually donated the repeater to TARC when he moved from Fresno to Exeter...

Poor Bill, only got to enjoy his new found wealth a couple of years before passing... He was a true gentleman with never a harsh word for anyone... Well almost. He had a manager of his number two Drive-In, Larry (ommitted) who dipped into the till and ran-off with several hundred bucks... That tightened his jaw a bit... One of the prized possessions he acquired was the Wurlitzer Pipe Organ from the Fox Theater in Modesto for \$75, but had to remove it... Sorry to say he never had the time to get it going and eventually sold it... Well nuff memory stuff... OH yes did I mention, Billie had previously been married... After Bill's passing she re-married her first husband... Patience rewards those who are willing to wait... Now you know the story and history behind the Root Beer Floats...

Editor, K6IXA



Buck Rock

Buck Rock Repeater is alive and well, as of 3:00 PM 6-21-2017 thanks to AT&T Tech David Lee... For those of you have forgotten Buck Rock is located in Kings Canyon, Sequoia National Park area on a dirt and sometimes impassable road just north of Horse Corral... That means, folks it's a good three hour one-way-trip from Atwater... Having said that, few of you will most likely ever see the site... To that end we'll include a few pix to bring you up to speed... The existing repeater ate the big one during last year's winter storm season... In fact David had to enter the building through a hatch in the roof underneath the show shed to remove the defective unit. Paul Lambert, (W6WYT) from Cooks Communication donated a couple of Kenwood TK-8180 mobile units to construct the new 440.300 repeater that David installed at Buck Rock... "Thanks Paul"



Located at 8500' "IT WORKS"

Buck Rock Microwave Installation



Far left antenna is a 4bay Scala for the W6BXN repeater... The 4bay on the right side belongs to KK6AC Repeater... The 2bay vhf antenna on the right side is for the K6IXA 144.39 APRS Weather digipeater... <http://www.findu.com/cgi-bin/wxpage.cgi?call=K6IXA-3> (you might have to cut and paste URL)

The Buck Rock Microwave Station is part of a microwave link that starts at Three Rivers, goes to Giant Forest where the community of Wilsonia is served then hits a double passive reflector into Buck Rock where service is dropped off to Buck Meadows a residential community near Horse Corral, then goes north through another double passive reflector ending up serving Cedar Grove on the north side of Grant Grove. Maintaining this Microwave Link can be a challenge in the Winter time to say the least..

Equipment Rack From Top Down

W6BXN 440.300 UHF repeater with Bullion Link transceiver

K6IXA 144.39 APRS Digi / US NWS Wx Station

KK6AC 442.950 UHF Repeater



Note: Both the Giant Forest and Buck Rock Microwave stations were assembled and flown into place by Sikorski S64 Skycrane Helicopters similar to the one pictured here, owned by Evergreen Helicopters from McMinnville Oregon... Video available on request...

Editor, K6IXA

Dick's PIX or The Veep's Peeps

Our illustrious vice commander is seen at various places and events doing his Ansel Adams bit with a mini Minolta Import... Here is a example of his creations:

From Ice Cream Social



With all the ballast over the keel this ship most likely will not tip over too easily

Cut the Gab and bring on the Root Beer Floats !



Casey (KJ6SSB) and Granddaughter or Beauty and the Beast...

Our Supreme Leader, Spencer (KJ6ART)...
Washington Got "TRUMP" We Got Spence !



More of Dick's Pix

This is a portion of the mob that is known to show up at Mc Donald's in the Merced Mall on Saturday mornings...

Individual pictures can be found posted in most area Post Offices... Left to right, Florencio (AB6BP), Dave (WA6PIC), Brian (KK6CUL), DJ (N6AWH), Grady (K6IXA)



Don W6LRG (Lazy Retired Guy)

Longtime TARC member and Korean War veteran, W6LRG/Don Thomas, age 85, is at the Park Merced Assisted Living Facility, 3050 M Street in Merced. He's in Room 127 and visitors are welcome. Don's sight is said to be failing, so please announce yourself as you enter his room. As you can imagine, the days get a bit long. Therefore visitors are always welcome. Don a long time Atwater ham, was active many years

on the Pacific Maritime Net as Net Control or busy running phone patches for the various maritime users plying the waters of the South Pacific. Many mariners came to depend on him for the connection back home. The four element mono-band 20 meter beam with the Heath-Kit KW assured a quality patch that one could depend on. When I was in Gabon with Chuck Mancebo, (W6GAM) installing Radio Email for the missionaries we visited the ham shack of Jean Claude Jupea, TR8XX the head of the Gabon FCC where we worked Don on 20 meters. We had the privilege of hand carrying a personal QSL back to Don for the contact. During the visit I took my MFJ antenna analyzer and Jean immediately had to have it. Told him he could have it for the price of a new one when we returned from Bongolo. Upon returning Jean was out of country, so our host Arnie paid me for the analyzer and we returned home. I questioned him later, did Jean pick up the analyzer? Yes he did and he paid me all in one dollar bills, I asked him where did he get that many one dollar bills, he mumbled something about QSL green stamps, what was that all about? I replied that meant that 243 guys did NOT get a QSL card. Jean Claude was eager to pay full price in that he was French, and the customs people were Gabonese. They would look you in the eye to determine just how much you were willing to pay to import an item. If you were one of the "hated" French it would start at 100% duty then go up from there. So the \$243 was a bargain to him... NOT sure what happened or what he was involved with, but a year after our visit, Jean Claude, returned to France and committed suicide. My impression is, as a real wheeler dealer he got caught going a bit too far with some questionable transaction that did not end very well... Editor, K6IXA

DMR

Thanks to Sam Gardali (K6ACR), former owner of Aircall Communications, TARC is now the proud owner of four new DMR repeaters, A UHF on Mt. Oso, another UHF in downtown Turlock and two, one VHF and one UHF on Mt. Bullion. We wish to thank Sam for this most generous gesture... This network of DMR repeaters will be a welcomed addition to the W6BXN repeater system.

Field Day

For the 1st time in the memory of most, TARC cancelled field day... The traditional site on the Schmidt Ranch under the shade trees with picnic tables was in an array of mud and debris due to the receding waters of the San Joaquin river... With the abundance of snow melt this lower section of the site has been under water and just began to recede... In that the area was not conducive to occupation the decision to hold field day on the upper shelf of the embankment was decided... However with the extreme heat and the lack of shade it was determined, I might say, wisely, to forego Field Day as such... Concern for some of our senior members who normally participate was wisely considered... Hopefully, next year things will be back to somewhat normal... Hot but at least some shade to hide under and hopefully a slight breeze... A small number of our members elected to operate from home this year... The digital modes got a thorough bit of exercise by those participating... Spencer (KJ6ART), Ken (KF6IDK), Richard (W6ABJ) and Reno (KG6BAA), all made a very good individual showing...

Potluck

Next meeting the 11th will be the Potluck in Crane Park... Married couples please bring a main dish and single folks a side dish or dessert... Club will supply drinks, bring your own utensils.... Looking forward to seeing you ALL there... Dinner at 6:00 pm, meeting starting at 7:00... Be there !!!

Auction

Reminder, the Fall Auction is now set for October 14th... Put it on your calendar, more to follow...

This Months Mystery Ham



He was a Green Beret with Detachment B-410 of the 46th Special Forces in Thailand. He was a radio operator with a reconnaissance team for the Thai Communist Suppression Operations Command as well as other operations... Never far from his AN/GRC-109 which he ate, slept & showered with. (He still has one and shows up occasionally for New Years straight key night.) Thai troops were engaged in a major counterinsurgency sweep through the Phu Phan mountains of northeastern Thailand during November 1967. Detachment B-410 served as the logistic support for this and numerous other offensives. During his tour of duty our Sergeant made in excess of 35 jumps from a C-130 and occasionally from the H21 Shawnee flying Banana. Brings into question, why in the world would a guy want to jump out of a perfectly good airplane. Apparently to give the bad guys what for. Those of the Green Beret are a special breed & brotherhood. They are the epitome of a brave few, willing to place themselves in harms way for their country. They are well deserving of our respect and admiration. We should all be proud to call one of them friend. The lack of respect shown towards these fine solders returning from this conflict was a National Disgrace. Many were just scared young kids placed in an unfortunate, uncomfortable place not of their choosing...

To Identify the mystery ham, look back for the underlined call sign in "More of Dick's Pix"

Editor, K6IXA